

Application No. 10/705,350
Amendment dated August 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2004

Remarks

Claims 18, 21 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite: claims 18 and 25 for containing redundant language and claim 21 for lacking antecedent basis. These claims have been amended to delete redundant recitations, to correct the antecedent reference and to otherwise clarify the claims. It is submitted that this rejection is overcome.

Claims 32-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kinne U.S. Patent No. 3,282,430. It appears from the rejection that the mitered ends of the frame members by which they are joined to each other in the Kinne patent are considered "tapered" as recited in the claims. Claim 32 is being amended to clarify the distinction between the "ends" of the members and the "sides" which are tapered. Kinne does not disclose members having tapered sides as recited in the claims as clarified by the amendment. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 32-48 are patentable.

Claims 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinne in view of Cardwell et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,517,709, and, for claims 18 and 21, further in view of Allard U.S. Patent No. 6,551,023. These claims have been amended to cover a flexible net that extends from its rim, over projections integral with either the frame or the clamping element, then wraps around the upstream side of the frame to the closed end of the net which extends to the downstream side of the frame. This provides a secure way of holding a flexible net to the frame that could otherwise rip from the frame if held by bolts or pegs or other elements that extend through the net on the same side of the frame along which the net extends downstream under the force of the flow. This combination is not provided by the references, even if they are combined. There is no suggestion in the references to configure the securement of a flexible net to a frame in this manner. Accordingly, claims 17-25 are patentable over the teachings of the cited references.

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Based on the amendments and arguments above, it is submitted that the claims, as amended, are allowable. Accordingly, an early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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